Dear Js, 11/10/72

Jim's 11/6, with copious enclosures I'll read when I've time to comment and file, came while I was in Washington today. I skimmed the letter while Lil's mother and sister were here and will respond. Timing some US VW actions now clearer to me. I guess I'm just not suspicious enough. I'd felt there was no accidnnt in the French embassy bombing, but hadn't correlated. The Boissat column is something Lil, not I, spotted.

Your letter diminishes one apprehension I've had, anout overloading you. I did feel you'd want all this "peace" stuff, voluminous as it is. In more recent mailings, where I got a second Post to have the WG clips for you, I've enclosed both copies. Usually together. My working space is limited, all the spread-out spaces is stacked, there is overflow into the living room, so I put into an envelope as soon as I go over or come to, eliminating that much stacking and opportunity for mislaying, so they may not all be folder together.

The ink will soon be blacker. I've a couple of new old ribbons that are better but I can't put on. Or at least feel I shouldn't try now. The day today began with the dermatologist who burned off a number of pre-cancerous things, all but two from the accumulating effects of the sun. There were two growths on my right hand. One of the things on the face is swollen but not at all uncomfortable. Both places on the hand have prominent water-blisters I don't want to break. Which also means by accident in a typewriter or in vigorous washing. She got me on both sides of the hand, too.

The day ended with the dentist, who I'll be seeing for a while. (Fortunately he is an old friend, for our bill is like Monaco's national debt!) In between I worked with Jim Lesar on the Ray habeas corpus petition and talked about Bud. We'll both see the filing of the petition through and then we are out of it for the situation is impossible. I spect this is the secret desire of Bud's sick ego. Jim and I have done all the work. Bud's reaction to my letter was to take offense while simultaneously admitting that my complaints were well founded, as was my advice.

His ego blinds him. I won't just quietly fold my tent. I've given Jim enough of an indication, if he is disposed to use it, without suggesting that he do. This is one time the lawyer won't screw the client without the client having a written record. Bud is doing almost exactly what we complain about in the habeas corpus.

The petition is in pretty good shape. Jim and I don't have any trouble working together, less I suspect as he learns that everything of which I told and warned his is factual, not pique, fancied wrongs, anger or other things. We had no disagreements on the changes and additions. I gave them to him in writing and we went over them. There is a factual memorandum and what Jim, who has yet to have his first case, had to take away from Bud and do over, it was that incompetent, what is called the Memorandum on Points and Authorities. My notes on these are on tape (thanks to you). He'll go over them alone, with my set of the drafts marked to key into the tape.

I started this while having a nightcap for relaxation and to see if typing bothers the hand(doesn't). While there remain a few drops, I take a liberty with your comment on retirement. I can understand all the comment you make and can see why you feel as you do. If there are close friends at work and they want to mark the occasion from friendship, well, it is your occasion, not theirs. The one thing I hope is not hidden in this is some kind of hangup about retirement. It should be the beginning of the best years, those without the many things that must make reporting disagreeable today to any principled man and with the opportunity for doing what there has never been time for doing. If the pension is adequate, these should be the most wonderful years, without the other side of the moon looming so black so often, without the swinging shifts and all the other nusiances. I'd attributed your silence to the orbiting, not the private -interests work...

Some of today's clips bear on the strange "peace" situation. I don't regard the pouring in of new supplies, which I think is exactly what happened in secret during the first holiday truce, as a sign of US peaceful intentions or plans. There should be no trouble arranging for peace to be impossible, as there never was any trouble keeping the menidcants inx a veto position, the easiest way to avoid any kind of peace.

11/11 Got up a couple of hours earlier than intended, wide awake. Don't know why, but I suspect it is disappointment over Bud. The rich are always essentially the same. Bud excuses himself to himself with an essentially cynical view, you can't win no matter what you do, so not doing what you are committed to is o.k. My course will not be easy or pleasant, but he has left me no honorable alternatives, has wasted more time than anyone can justify investing free, and my own interests is really served by it, for I just can't go on wasting time. He and the situation he has created, the limitations he and Jim both suffer and their failure to familiarize themselves with the fact have wasted most of six months for me now. I've been hung up, unable to get down to more writing, limited in the time I can devote to other things. One of these is on our own damage suit against the Army. When I got home yesterday there was a letter from our lawyer with an offer of $5,000 in full settlement from the Army. I'll want to talk it over more with Lil, but I don't want to and don't expect to accept it. The lawyer recommends it, no doubt because it will give him a fine return for no more than a day of work to date. It is more than triple their previous unsolicited offer. Rather odd that he fails to mention two things, which may be one of the advantages of doiggx your own work. The one thing I had time for yesterday was dropping by the Environmental Defense Fund, a group of people financed by concerned lawyers. It is a lawyers' group. I spoke to one of the lawyers there a week ago, he was interested and saw the poetntial for everyone in a victory for us, called my lawyer, and yesterday I learned that he is interested, if I didn't see him. I know a girl who works there from the past. This lawyer went to school with mine, who made no mention of it or even of hearing from him. The EDF has made him some offers, including help with expert testimony.

There is a strange part to it. Our calculations, based on reasonable and provable figures (which does not mean they won't be challenged and will be believed) shows a loss on just the capacity we had, the chickens we actually had on the place, of a bit more than $35,000 for the period covered by the suit. We did plan expansion, did have the business for it, do have records showing that I had to and did buy eggs to meet my market, by the thousands. In addition, as these things are projected, this lawyer filed a claim for 10 times that for the value of the business, and he now, without regard to what interests the ecological groups from which help can be forthcoming and from what provides a basis for major recovery, personal damages, recommends a settlement for a fraction? It tells me not to expect any work from him at the best.

I guess this is ever the plight of those without means, its own kind of parallel to Ray's situation that he doesn't realizebecause of me. And I, unlike Ray, have no me working for me. Maybe this also is why I was wide awake....

If you are going to keep up with what you describe as a charade, an understatement, you are going to be tied up for a while. I think it is part of a much larger package, the larger part of which is domestic, along the lines I've already indicated. The uncritical press will work with him. How logical it is for Porter to see the end, to feel that settlement is close, on no basis other than the re-election of the President. Heil, Nixon! The volume in the Post has fallen downbecause of the elections. We'll be watching for you.

I've heard of SunDance, look forward to the Nixon-Mafia editions. I know generally about Rebe's connection, that he was deposed in some Mafia litigation because of personal involvement in deals. One of the interesting developments of the past campaign is the seeming radicalization of O'Brien in his plaints about such things as the San Clemente ploy. I do not expect to be able to carry my FOI suit for this info forward, won't try without help.

Your analysis of the forces against Nixon and his expectations of collapse is sound. He is without capacity for reasoning these things out for himself. His politics would tell him what you postulate and it has always been the view of the military. They are the unlearning. They never learn, and they fit everytuing into the scheme of their preconceptions.

Developments since you wrote confirm thephoniness you point out. What you heard on Pacifica I had not heard and not read. I had presumed something like this. With such proceedings it is never like Eve from Adam's rib. You by now have the Post story which lays it out. There were earlier reports I heard on the radio that the 10/31 date was Nixon's own selection. Nixon and Kissinger are liars? So what else is new?

I don't regard the "concessions" by the North as large. I think at most a Nixon face-saver. While I agree that what Hed did with this at the end was what he should have done, it was too late, too little and typifies the ineffectiveness of the campaign, meaning the staff failures more than his. (I also am uncertain whether it was Kosygin or Podgorny, but I recall that incident clearly and couldn't believe it, it was that arrogant and stupid.)

With Kissinger's first recent flight McG should have been saying "I forced it. This is the only way Nixon can continue to fool the people. Why didn't he do this when he has his secret plan?", things like that. Instead, he said he'd be happy to lose on that issue. Almost no electorate can comprehend this kind of thing.

I would not be inclined to go as far as to say that Nixon had no intention of going through with any kind of settlement. He would have if he could have reversed Kalusewitz, gotten at the peace table what he could not get by force of arms. He has been too careful to continue the military's strategy of giving Thieu a n enforcable veto to be considered to really want any kind of decent peace. From his point of view, he now has many more options, all evil to us, than the press has indicated. None includes leaving the area.

The NVN may have figured as you say, that campaign pressures would force him to sign. Other analysts go further, saying they felt such pressures fron the USSR and China, which prefer dealing with a known quantity . I have some trouble believing they really expected him to keep an agreement for them to keep their forces in the south or that they would expect him to be able to deliver Thieu's suicide whileholding his life insurance and that while they will never say it, they expected what happenen and figure it helps them in the long run. I would agree, particularly if the reporting in other countries has been honest./

Your analysis leads you to what you accurately call an interesting question, whether there was any serious divergence between N and K. Instinctively I'd say no. In fact, I'd never thought of this possibility. It is reasonable.I don't think so because I think on this and such matters Nixon is Henry's man. The possibility would lie in the military disagreeing. Aside from the political objectives, their manhood concept is much involved there. The embassy bombings validate your theory. Such things are unheard of and I doubt Henry or Der Nichts (nix) would have plotted them.

Without having thought it through, I'd be inclined to believe the worst of K and N, that they never intended a ything kore than s atall, and that it is all part of an overall scheme for an Ameriform fascism, as I postulated back in 1968 in COUP. I view the immediately-announced top-level changes as part of this and as a cover for tightening the controls and bringin in the even more hard-headed while dumping the vulnerable, for the time at which EMK can hold his hearings is too soon, and the restraints can't be applied by then. As the dawn seems late in coming today, so also do darker days seem to lie ahead to me.

That what you perceived is the fact, that a large part of the populace recognized this for what it was yet did not reflect it in their voting, is not an encouraging sign. They are disspirited. Nixon, Johnson and the assassinations have convinced them nothing can make a difference. But the kids are crazy to have considered there was no choice, whether or not there was a good chance. If they could not comprehend the simplest formulation, that Nixon's re-election meant greater repression at home, they are too turned off, have given up, have defeated themselves, and do not give the promise for the future I thought I saw in the early summer. Between this and the internecine war that has already started in Dem ranks, there will be and seems to be little prospect of organized opposition. I expect a major attack on the media. Why take changes? It can center on the Post. The Times' record signals they saw and compromised in advance. The Dems made a great mistake in not taking a page from FDR's book, replaying Agnew in a decent, honest way, and making the 95% endorsement an issue. But since they attacked nobody, there was no chance and a by-product is an atmosphere for crediting a complascent press when it accepts what is coming. Only time...

Didn't know you never wore scarves. I've been there when I shivvered in a raincoat at night. Lil has started a new project, but she'll still be looking for small things to do. She finished the afghan Cris(pina) McDonald will wear to The Tartan Ball tonight in DC a Cris and Ian were up for dinner last Saturday night. She was delighted as a child with a new toy. I had protested the female chauvenism in this and demanded equality for men. Lil's response was, "offer him one of your sweaters". Ian and Cris was flabbergasted when I laid them out, omitting the long-sleeved ones of which he has a number. He selected a maroon pullover from the six of so sleeveless I have after giving some away. I can recall giving four away, people from Gary to our Senator's father, who liked one I was wearing. Knitting in the WG characters was my idea. Lil has plotted this as much as she feels she can on graph paper. I think she is ondering about the squiggles. Maybe when JM gets around to delivering the paper paid for so long ago (good thing-couldn t do it now!) I'll send a copy for editing. If she does nothing else, I'd like a knitted plaque for the wall. Fun stuff.

Her new project is knitting a fancy skirt.I think she plans to take it to a store as a sample, to see if they can get orders for her. She is severely depressed by our financial condition, which never improves.

Didn't know you were weavers. I started to make myself a loom when I was a kid but never finished it. Last time I stayed with the Herrons in N.O. (they are not out there), Matt, Jr. had a loom his granddad had given him. He was then about 10 or 11. He wove something I'd never dram of, a denim scarf, and it was quite attractive. I think that kind of thing can be quite relaxing, as Lil finds knitting and used to find cricheting, too. The arthritis in her fingers seems to have ended the crocheting. Anyway, she didn8t start any scarves. The skit looks quite attractive.

...I had not made the obvious correlation between Nixon'd losing himself in Phila and Nassua, as Ian told me but I had not seen reported, and the VN situation. Glad you pointed it out. Can we conjecture from this? Is that really his state? And then he dropped his ballot, evenhad trouble getting into the voting booth? Not commented on but shown on TV.

Last night sometime, because I'd gone to sleep with the little radio on, tuned to the Chicago all-news station, I heard the net show from which Je has quoted in the past, some kind of review of the news on CBS. It includes word-for-word sequences from TV. This wee-hours one was Severehead on the coming changes in the administration. I think I have heard this before. Or, it would seem that the better sequences on the CBS net TV news you do get on KCBS radio. I've not sent the Schorr shows on WG because the one value they had no longer exists, a reflection of media attitude. I've not erased the tape, should you want it, but there really is no new info in it. The presentation was good, making effective use of the opportunities presented by the medium. But no more. Rehash to those who saw the Post.

Now that it is daylight and wet, I think I'll get the paper while Lil enjoys her one luxury, sipping her mate abed.

I'll go over the clips and Je's notes on them separately. Thanks.

Our best,